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Monarchy abolished in Nepal

The Nepalese Constituent Assembly has voted to abolish the monarchy. A large majority supported the vote in parliament. "The Nepalese people have been freed from centuries of feudal tradition and the doors have now opened for a radical social and economic transformation," said a government spokesperson.

UK study highlights child abuse by humanitarian workers

A study by the non-profit organisation Save the Children UK claims that a number of aid workers and peacekeepers from organisations such as the United Nations and Save the Children itself have engaged in sexual abuse of children in the course of their humanitarian efforts. The study also says that many of these incidents remain unreported, and those involved often go unpunished.

Two MBTA Green Line trains collide in Newton, Massachusetts

Two Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Green Line trains collided in Newton. Both trains consisted of two cars, one of which rear-ended the other causing major damage on

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both trains, multiple injuries and trapped the female operator of one of the two trains, 24 year-old Terrese Edmonds, who subsequently died. An investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board is underway.

'Big Brother Australia' evictee recounts youth in controversial religious group

David Tchappat, a popular housemate recently evicted from the television reality program Big Brother Australia, has spoken out critically of his childhood experiences in the controversial religious group "Raven-Taylor-Hales Brethren", referred to in Australian media as "Exclusive Brethren". Tchappat was a participant in the edition Big Brother Australia 2008, and was voted off the show on May 25.

Wikipedia Current Events

A gunman shoots dead a magistrate and a Perry County, Kentucky employee before killing himself in a convenience store in Hazard, Kentucky, United States.

- Agathon Rwasa returns to Burundi from exile in Tanzania after an agreement between his Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People and the government.
- A crane collapses in the Upper East Side of New York City resulting in the death of at least two people.
- Former Croatian Army general

Wikipedia Current Events

Mirko Norac is sentenced by a Croatian court to seven years in prison for his role in the 1993 Operation Medak Pocket; Rahim Ademi is acquitted.

•Grupo TACA Flight 390, an Airbus A320 flying from San Salvador, El Salvador, crashes in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, after failing to land due to a wet runway. 18 casualties are reported, including the chairman of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration who suffered a heart attack after the crash.

•The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services reaches agreement with some of the families of the YFZ Ranch to start returning the children on Monday.

2008-09 Bundesliga: Forssell moves to Hannover 96

German-born Finland striker Mikael Forssell has signed a 3 year contract with Hannover 96 on a free transfer from Birmingham City. Birmingham City were relegated from the FA Premier League earlier this month.

Birmingham Head Coach Alex McLeish believes that, despite the transfer of Forssell to Hannover 96, his squad will have enough goalscoring to challenge for an immediate return to the FA Premier League for the 2009-10 season.

For Forssell, The transfer ends an association with English football

wich lastd 10 years. He has played at Chelsea F.C., Crystal Palace and Birmingham City over that time.

Quotes

- Christian Hochstatter, Hannover 96 Sporting Director: "We are very happy that we could persuade Mikael to join Hannover."
- Mikael Forssell: "I am looking forward to playing for Hannover and in the Bundesliga."

X performs at the TLA in Philadelphia

Thursday, May 22, X played at the Theater of the Living Arts (TLA) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States. Wikinews was there for the concert.

The band stopped in Philadelphia as part of their "13 x 31 Anniversary Tour," marking the bands 31st anniversary. The performance was the first since the bands last visit on their "As the World Burns Tour" in 2006, and featured the original line-up of John Doe, Exene Cervenka, Billy Zoom, and D.J. Bonebrake.

Having not released an album of new work since 1987, the tour is an opportunity for one of punk rock's seminal bands to connect with their fans. The band played a strong set of material from their first four albums, all recorded during the years of 1980 - 1983.

No material from their last two studio albums was played, with some citing the strong preferences of guitarist Billy Zoom for the earlier work. X came on stage around 10:30 pm and played until close to midnight. Their full-throttle set started with "Your Phone's Off the Hook, But You're Not," and didn't slow down after that, although slowing down might

be hard seeing as the set was classic punk – high energy songs full of angst and anger. This was moderated though by Doe's on-going comments to the audience and Zoom's mugging. Exene, dressed in an oversize black dress seemed subdued and her vocals seemed quieter than usual – though her off-key harmonizing with Does' vocals was true to the song's original recordings. During the second encore they were joined by Rachel Nagy who provided additional vocals. That encore was delayed by Zoom, who was in the audience seemingly determined to meet every woman in the audience.

While X has not produced an album of new material in 21 years, the band did visit recently as their alter-ego, The Knitters. Each of the members of the band has kept busy. Doe has released several solo albums and tours regularly and acts on television; Cervenka fronts the band, the Original Sinners, as well as spoken word performances; Zoom works as an album producer for other bands, and designs his own line of amps and guitars; while Bonebrake works with the Bonebrake Syncopators and Orchestra Superstring.

The opening act for X was the Detroit Cobras. The Cobras, fronted by singer Nagy and guitarist Mary Ramirez, provided an energetic opening for the headliners. The word for the night was fun as the members of X spent a good deal of time watching the opening act from the sides of the stage, with Zoom flirting with guitarist Ramirez and coming out on stage to wrestle with her. The Cobras returned the favor by dancing on stage during the last third of X's set.

On this tour, X has donated sets of tickets to the non-profit Sweet Relief Musicians Fund to provide assistance to all types of career musicians who are struggling to make ends meet while facing illness, disability, or age-related problems.

Ban on cluster bombs adopted by 111 countries

Today representatives of 111 countries have adopted a formal ban on cluster bombs. The ban is to be signed and ratified by each country on December 2-3 in Oslo, Norway, the country that initiated the discussions on the ban.

Following almost two weeks of negotiations, the ban was agreed upon at a ceremony held in Dublin, Ireland. Signatories will be required to completely get rid of cluster bomb stockpiles within eight years.

Cluster bombs are characterized by the small "bomblets" that they release while falling. Many are opposed to this type of munition because the "bomblets" spread over a large area, meaning that they can easily injure or kill innocent civilians even when aimed at a specific enemy target.

Despite U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voicing his hopes that all nations would agree to the ban, many countries have boycotted the ban, including the United States, Russia, Israel, Pakistan and India. Military analyst Marc Garlasco of the organization Human Rights Watch noted that these nations will be less likely to use the munitions due to the stigma that will be attached to them.

While widely celebrated, some criticize the pact for not being strong enough in its implications.

For example, signatories will still be allowed to cooperate on military operations with non-signatories.

The ban will go into effect in mid-2009.

2008-09 Serie A: Inter Milan fire Mancini

Inter Milan has confirmed that they have fired Head Coach Roberto Mancini after Club Owner Massimo Moratti held a meeting with Mancini. Inter Milan reached the UEFA Champions League last 16, the Italian Cup final and won Serie A (Italian Championship). Mancini had won 3 consecutive Serie A titles with Inter while they nearly lost this season's title on the final day having let slip an 11-point lead in February.

A club statement on their website said, "FC Internazionale have informed Roberto Mancini that he has been sacked as coach, in particular because of the comments made by the coach at the end of the Inter-Liverpool match."

Romour speculations have indicated that former Chelsea F.C. Manager Jose Mourinho is the prime candidate to take over Inter Milan. The Sun, who is located in London, England, has claimed that Mourinho "has handed a transfer dossier to Moratti identifying England midfielder Frank Lampard, former Portuguese defender Ricardo Carvalho and Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba."

Officer who killed Polish dissident during Communist era sentenced to 4 years prison

A Warsaw court has sentenced a communist-era policeman to four years in prison for the 1983 killing of a young dissident, overturning a history of four acquittals in the same case over the years.

Ireneusz Kościuk, a former member of communist Poland's infamous ZOMO riot police units, was found guilty of the fatal beating of 19-year old Grzegorz Przemyski, the son of dissident poet Barbara Sadowska and a promising talent in his own rights. Przemyski was beaten at a central Warsaw police station after being stopped while celebrating his high school leaving exams. Przemyski's case became a symbol of resistance to communism in Poland and his funeral turned into a massive demonstration against communist authorities.

The verdict pleased Przemyski's family and friends, who had seen the case intentionally covered up by the communist regime and then retried several times due to stonewalling by the suspects. Famously, former Interior Minister Czesław Kiszczak was recorded as ordering prosecutors in the original investigation to only focus on the paramedics who finally delivered Przemyski to the hospital, and to ignore any leads related to the policemen. Though happy with the verdict, the victim's father, Leopold Przemyski, believes justice has not yet been served.

"Only the sword has been punished, and not the hand that held it," he said after the court announced its decision.

Presiding judge Monika Niezabitowska-Nowakowska said that the verdict was made possible by new evidence that had not been known to the courts that had acquitted Kościuk in the past. However, she said the beating could not be treated as a communist crime, since the policemen could not have known about Przemyski's dissident views, and that the beating they gave him was not politically motivated.

First fertilised fish fossil found

A 375 million-year old fossilised umbilical cord could cause scientists to completely rethink the current theories of the evolution of vertebrate sexual reproduction, a team of Australian scientists say.

The fossil of a placoderm, a class of prehistoric fish known as the "dinosaur of the seas", dates back to the Devonian period, and is the earliest known case of a vertebrate that gave birth to live young. It is also the only fossilised umbilical cord ever to be found.

Dr. John Long, Museum Victoria's head of sciences and the leader of the team examining the fossils, says the find "changes our understanding of the evolution of vertebrates".

He and Dr. Kate Trinajstić from the University of Western Australia were writing a paper on the fossil that was found during an Australian Research Council-funded expedition to the Gogo Formation, near the town of Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia. They decided to give the fossil one last inspection, at which point they discovered the embryo. According to the research team, this discovery pushes the known development of viviparity (animals giving birth to live young) back 200 million years, and also marks the earliest known development of internal fertilisation, a feature now found in sharks and rays.

Dr. Long gave the species the Latin name *Materpiscis attenboroughi*. *Materpiscis* derives from the Latin words meaning "mother fish", and *attenboroughi* was chosen in honour of Sir David Attenborough, who first drew attention to the Gogo region's possible fossils in a 1970s TV documentary.

The team's findings were published in the science journal *Nature*, and the fossil specimen will be on display at the Melbourne Museum.

Study: Stonehenge was ancient graveyard

A recently released study has claimed that the British monument, Stonehenge was a burial site for the British royal family. It said that the people from the first 500 years of Britain's first royal family were buried there.

UK health workers reject pay offer

UK health workers have voted to reject the pay offer proposed by the UK government. The offer, for an 8% increase over three years, faced strong opposition among health workers.

Today in History

1223 – Mongol invasions: Mongol forces defeated a combined army of Kiev, Galich, and the Cumans on the banks of the Kalchik River in present-day Ukraine.

1669 – Citing poor eyesight, English naval administrator and Member of Parliament Samuel Pepys recorded his last entry in his diary, one of the most important primary sources for the English Restoration period.

1889 – The South Fork Dam near Johnstown, Pennsylvania, USA failed, unleashing a torrent of 18.1 million cubic meters (4.8 billion gallons) of water that killed over 2,200 people.

1910 – The previously separate colonies of the Cape, Natal, Transvaal and the Orange Free State united to form the Union of South Africa, exactly 51 years before it would become the Republic of South Africa.

1974 – Syria and Israel signed a disengagement agreement to resolve the 20-day Yom Kippur War.

May 31 is World No Tobacco Day; Feast of the Visitation in Roman Catholicism and Anglicanism

Quote of the Day

Be composed — be at ease with me — I am Walt Whitman, liberal and lusty as Nature,
Not till the sun excludes you do I exclude you,
Not till the waters refuse to glisten for you and the leaves to rustle for you, do my words refuse to glisten and rustle for you.
~ Walt Whitman in *Leaves of Grass* ~

Word of the Day

edelweiss n

1. A European perennial alpine plant having downy leaves and small white flower heads in a dense cluster.

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+1-866-653-4265
(toll-free in the U.S.)
+1-202-742-5918
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+44-871-218-6397
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